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Agenda item 65
Peacebuilding and sustaining peace

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Letter dated 20 October 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I write to you with regard to yet another large-scale naval joint military exercise staged by the United States on 16 October 2017 on the Korean peninsula in its attempt to launch a pre-emptive nuclear strike against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

The joint military exercises conducted by the United States one after another all year round on the Korean peninsula are clearly aggressive war exercises in their nature and scale.

Mobilized in this naval exercise are the strike forces of a nuclear aircraft carrier *Ronald Reagan*, three nuclear submarines, including the *Michigan*, Aegis destroyers and more than 40 other battleships and fighters of all kinds.

As the current naval exercise is a large-scale military exercise, waged with the general mobilization of nuclear strategic assets, after the US chief executive recently made the most ferocious declaration of war in history by claiming to "totally destroy" the DPRK, it all the more increases the tension on the Korean peninsula.

What cannot be overlooked is the fact that the US, not being content with the joint military exercise on the Korean peninsula, is kicking up the racket of military pressure on the DPRK on a worldwide scale, and is becoming more undisguised in its attempt to introduce NATO and other armed forces of its followers into the Korean peninsula in case of emergency.

The large-scale joint military exercises started by the US against the DPRK during the Cold War are staged several times every year, with mobilization of more nuclear strategic assets on a larger scale with a more aggressive nature after the Cold War. As such, these military exercises constitute a clear threat to international peace and security.

Proceeding from there, the DPRK, in accordance with Articles 34 and 35 of the Charter of the United Nations, requests the Security Council to bring up the US joint military exercise as its urgent agenda item under discussion.

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No country in the world other than the DPRK has ever been subjected to such an extreme and direct nuclear threat from the US for such a long time and witnessed at its door such nuclear war exercises, which are the most vicious and ferocious in their scale, style, aim and essence.

The Security Council, in conformity with its mandate, should accept our request for ensuring the peace and security of the Korean peninsula, and thus eliminate the root cause of aggravated tension and war on the Korean peninsula, and make a practical contribution to promoting international peace and security.

Should the Security Council ignore again the DPRK's just and above-board request, it will reveal by itself more clearly that the Security Council has now become the political tool of an individual power by giving up its missions and turning its back on the trust of the international community.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 65, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ja** Song Nam
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Letter dated 24 October 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Recalling my letter addressed to you on 5 January 2017 and my meetings with you on 25 January, with the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs on 10 January and with the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs on 21 March, I have the honour to send the present letter to you with regard to organizing an international forum of legal experts, which was proposed to the United Nations Secretariat to clarify the legal grounds of the Security Council's "sanctions resolutions" against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

As the questions about the legal and moral justifications for the Security Council's "sanctions resolutions" are now increasing in the international community, the proposed international forum of legal experts would be the most appropriate place where the legality of the "sanctions resolutions" could be evaluated from the viewpoint of justice and fairness.

The following issues could be debated as agenda items in the forum:

(a) Are the Security Council's "sanction resolutions" that prohibit the DPRK's satellite launches in conformity with international law, which clearly stipulates that the peaceful use of outer space is an inalienable sovereignty of States?

(b) Do the Security Council's "sanction resolutions" that prohibit the DPRK's nuclear tests have legal validity under the situation in which the international law on a total ban on nuclear tests has not yet come into effect?

(c) Do the permanent members of the Security Council who prevent the international law on a total ban on nuclear tests from coming into effect have any moral justification to prohibit the nuclear tests of other countries?

(d) The Security Council condemned the nuclear tests and satellite launches by the DPRK only as "threats to international peace and security" and imposed sanctions without taking issue with such tests and launches by other countries. Are those double standards of the Security Council in conformity with Articles 2 and 51

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of the Charter of the United Nations, which recognize the principles of sovereign equality and the right to self-defence of countries?

Besides those issues, the participants in the forum may propose that other issues be adopted as agenda items.

We would once again ask the United Nations Secretariat to organize the international forum of legal experts at the earliest possible date, as requested.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 65, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ja** Song Nam
Ambassador
Permanent Representative